

magnify his people if we will but pray to him and trust in him and place ourselves in his hands.

May the Lord continue to bless us as a people, that we may be grateful for the opportunities that we have, that we may extend the hand of fellowship and love so perfectly exemplified by the President of our Church today, President George Albert Smith. Whenever I feel that I am getting out of patience or becoming perturbed, I think of his beautiful spirit, and then I have to mellow and realize that the spirit of love is the spirit of our Father in heaven.

May the Lord bless us that we may have that pleasure, I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Brigham Young University Mixed Chorus and the Congregation sang: "O Say, What Is Truth?" by Jaques; Hymn Book No. 59, L.D.S. Hymns No. 191. Elder Richard P. Condie conducting.

### ELDER RICHARD L. EVANS

*Of the First Council of the Seventy*

You are a glorious audience to look upon, and if the Church represented nothing more than what we see before us here from this pulpit, it would be an inestimable power for good in the earth. But to look at you and to realize that you represent only a fraction of one percent of the total membership of the Church is a glorious thought to contemplate.

### MUCH EXPECTED OF THE CHURCH

I suppose we all like to hear success stories, and the centennial is a success story. The statistical report of the Church, read here yesterday morning by President Clark and by Brother Joseph Anderson, is a success story of the cumulative accomplishment of the past hundred years.

The Lord expected much of those six people who officially organized the Church in 1830, and I feel sure he was not disappointed. He expected much of the twenty thousand who made up the population of Nauvoo and vicinity about a hundred years ago, and, while some faltered, their total achievement was glorious. I hesitate to think how much more he expects of us today as we stand at the beginning of the second century in this valley.

The past has little meaning except in terms of the future. What is only past is a dead thing, but what of the past may be builded upon is something else, and I look at the centennial not only as an occasion for looking back but also as an obligation for looking forward, and again, I hesitate almost to think of what would be expected of about a million people with all of the advantages we have in comparison with the accomplishments of those who have gone before with what they had.

## CHALLENGE FOR MISSIONARY WORK

Surely it may be said that in no century of the history of the world has greater change taken place than in the past century which we now celebrate as our centennial, and I should like to indicate, by citing a few facts and figures, some of the accomplishments, and some of the things that face us squarely as a challenge for the century to come.

For one thing, the total population of the world has more than doubled in the past century which we now commemorate. There are more than two billion people on the face of the earth today. It is estimated by statisticians of population that this will double, or more than double, again, being permitted to do so, in the next century, which would mean something between four and five billion people. To an organization that has the obligation to preach the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, this is something to consider.

Sometime before the war (and I don't know just what the figures are at this moment), there was an estimated net gain of about thirty million people being added to the population of the world annually. About one hundred fifty thousand new faces were appearing in this world each day. About a hundred thousand were dying each day. These figures are also something to contemplate by a Church that has the obligation of carrying the message to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. What does a hundred fifty thousand new faces each day mean in terms of missionary work, and what does the great number of those who depart mean in terms of temple work?

Some years ago I took an annual report of the British Mission, when there was a rather strong corps of missionaries active there, and paralleled figures with some of the vital statistics from Great Britain, and discovered that in the oldest and perhaps best established European mission in the Church, at that time at least, there was about one person born in Great Britain every year to every tract we were distributing; there were about four born in Great Britain every year to every door answered to our missionaries; about ten born every year to every gospel conversation; and about sixty born every year to every family visited. Multiply this result by the total figures for the world, and we have some more facts to take into consideration in terms of our own obligations.

The Book of Mormon has been translated into about twenty-four languages, and printed, I think, in eighteen. But the French Academy recognizes about two thousand seven hundred ninety-six distinct languages on the face of the earth. You can see what the Lord started when he took a hand in the confusion of tongues at Babel after the flood, and it is marvelous to contemplate how magnificently men cooperate when confusion is called for—two thousand seven hundred ninety-six languages! The *World Almanac* recognizes forty-five major languages in use today. These are other facts for us to consider.

Now I submit to you that the Lord does not deal in statistical impossibilities, and when he places upon any people the obligation of preaching the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people it is an assignment to be taken seriously and not something beyond possible reach. I have made the statement often that if every person in the Church did his job as a missionary as well as Wilford Woodruff once did, this would be accomplished now.

But in addition to such service there are many tools that have been given to us which multiply the power of men's efforts and which I am sure the Lord expects us to make good use of even as tools are being made use of in all the other pursuits of life for man's enrichment and comfort and for the material advancement of the world. A man with his bare hands doesn't have much to work with in this world, but a man with a tool or with a machine, which is a tool multiplied in power and complexity and function, may do the work of five or ten or a thousand or more men.

I am sure that our Father in heaven expects us to use all available resources intelligently and to multiply our personal efforts by every modern facility that is available to mankind in this our day, even as our pioneer fathers a hundred years ago used everything that was available to them. It is not for us to use their methods alone but to use the principles on which they builded and by which they lived, and to add to and multiply the use of those principles by everything that is available to us.

If we can have a conversation with one man, well and good, but if we can multiply this by modern means of communication by a million or several million, so much the better, and by such means, as well as by our individual opportunities and efforts, this obligation that has been placed upon us is within realization, theoretically at least, practically, I believe.

These are just a few passing thoughts of the significance of our centennial. I should like to add two more before sitting down.

### THE HOME MISSIONARY FIELD

One, that I believe there is no greater mission field, however much we may emphasize others, than there is at home and in the home.

Night before last, I read in the newspaper of a mother who had been chosen as Utah's Mother of 1947, and who had fifty-eight living descendants. I remember of reading of an elderly patriarch in Utah County, some years ago, who was then living but has since died, and who then had one hundred forty-eight living descendants. I recall having seen a picture of President George F. Richards and his excellent family on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. They then numbered, as I recall, more than ninety descendants living, and they no doubt have added many more since then in these past five or six years. What would have been the cumulative result if,

many years ago, someone hadn't done his duty in the Church, and had allowed one of these three whom I have mentioned to become indifferent or estranged from the Church early in life or to become offended for some reason?

When we are dealing with the life of a boy or girl, we are not dealing with an individual only. We are dealing with a whole posterity, and not with time only, but with life eternal. And there is no greater mission mothers and fathers can perform than to keep their sons and daughters close to them and close to the Church, and no greater mission that we at home can perform than to see that no one has cause for offense because of us, and that no one is allowed to lapse into indifference and inactivity, and that no one who is now inactive, fails to be labored with, with all that we have to give, because we are not dealing with an individual only; we are dealing with generations and with ultimate consequences of which we have no conception. I plead with you, my brothers and sisters, to consider this fact, and whenever you look at an individual, don't think of him just as he is, but think of the potentialities of his life and of generations to come—and never give him up.

#### FEAR OVERCOME BY TRUST IN THE LORD

And now, returning to the subject of world populations: A few months ago on a nationwide radio network two of America's eminent statisticians and authorities on population advocated as a solution to world troubles a planned limitation of population. Almost at the same time or a little later another authority was telling us that within five years from now, perhaps not more than ten percent of us would be left living. These two views are difficult to reconcile. It would be wonderful if the experts could only agree, but where they can't, confusion is the result.

But we do know what the Lord's plans and purposes are; what he expects of us; and the fear in our hearts concerning these things can be quieted; and our confusion and our apprehension in these times of wild rumor and of potentialities that are beyond our understanding for good and for evil, for destruction as well as for the making of good things, can be made to give way to calm assurance, if we will follow the counsel of the Lord, accept the counsel of his appointed servants, and live our lives as we know they should be lived. If we will do so we need not worry about these predictions, but we shall find satisfaction and happiness and peace and accomplishment in life, and can go our way and trust our Father in heaven for the ultimate consequences. That we may do so I pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.